

## 2018 PLAYER HIGHLIGHT

# Diamond Lewis

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**D**iamond Lewis has participated in Dodgers RBI for the last three years and played a major role in the Dodgers RBI Regional Softball team advancing to the World Series in 2018. Having recently graduated from Hamilton High School in 2017, Diamond now finds herself at El Camino College, still relying on the life lessons she learned while playing softball.

“Growing up I experienced a lot of ‘no’s’. Plenty of people told me certain things that I have accomplished couldn’t be done. It is rare for people with my background and my circumstances to become successful and have an impact...I have come so far from who I used to be, I used to be an angry little girl. I was lost and didn’t really know what to do and who to be.”

Through softball, Diamond found what she describes as her “turning point” in 10th grade. “I didn’t care so much about softball. God put me in a situation where I had to fight, and my friends were not there for me. This was the biggest turning point in my life...that was the day my love and my values flipped around. From that day forward, I realize no one had my back the way softball did. Softball has shaped and formed me to who I am today, a great person on and off the field. It has brought me closer to god, understanding how to work together with others, not to be selfish... I have made more people proud and smile playing this game than ever. This forces me to stay on track.” Diamond has stayed on track during her first year at El Camino College. This year Diamond has earned 2018 NFCA Cal-JC All-American, 2018 All-SCC South Player of the Year touting

a .470 AVG and led the state in doubles. More importantly, Diamond has her eyes on furthering her education. Diamond states that she would like to major in biology and work towards a career as a plastic surgeon. She currently has three division 1 universities interested in her as a student- athlete because of her play and her excellent GPA.

Diamond is an example of why LADF provides Dodgers RBI to local communities throughout Los Angeles. Surely, Diamond has excelled as an elite softball player but the life lessons that she is able to apply off the field are what youth sports participation is all about. Not all Dodgers RBI players will succeed in the same manner as Diamond, but all will have the opportunity to play and reap the social and emotional benefits of sports participation. In her own words, “In this world you are either going into a storm or coming out of one. At the end of the day all that matters is how you bounce back from it, and if you will apply everything that you have learned from your lesson, or will you crawl into a ball and wait for someone to save you. Everyone needs to be their own hero and more.”

It is LADF’s hope that Dodgers RBI creates opportunities for youth across LA to build resiliency and become their own hero and more.